

The choice of site, if I remember correctly, was based on the examination made by engineers in military district 6. They were the ones entrusted with the responsibility of making the preliminary survey in that district. The report—and when I say this I am only stating the practice—would be made in the usual course to the quartermaster-general. I have no doubt he would discuss the matter with the chief of the general staff, looking at it from the point of view of tactical position and the supplying of camp requirements. The matter would then go to the deputy minister, and then to the minister. That is the practice in connection with the choice of sites.

I remember filing a return last year which showed total expenditures at Debert amounting to something like \$5,000,000. On that occasion I was replying to the hon. member for Cumberland. I have not the figures at the moment, but I shall get them.

I have not before me the information and figures respecting amounts paid to the International Water Supply company, but I will see that they are obtained.

Mr. HAZEN: Recently I have received several letters from subdivisions of the Catholic Women's League in my constituency, in which they set out a resolution forwarded to the minister. I have not a copy of the resolution before me but, if I remember correctly, it refers to the lack of accommodation for holding divine services in the different training camps. I presume this matter has been brought to the attention of the minister. Is it receiving his consideration?

The statement the minister has placed on *Hansard* sets out the estimated total amount of expenditures to the end of the last fiscal year for construction, purchase, repairs and operating expenses in connection with properties. The total amount is \$75,861,194. Would the minister give a break-down of that amount by military districts?

Mr. RALSTON: I do not mind giving the figures to the hon. member, nor do I mind giving them to the committee. However, I should prefer not to have them on *Hansard*. The statement shows where the activities have been. As I pointed out the other day, the practice in the British House of Commons is to put in an estimate for £10, and set a day to discuss everything. They do not show where the expenditures are made. I will show the hon. member the break-down, if that is satisfactory.

[Mr. Ralston.]

Mr. HAZEN: That is the difficulty pointed out this afternoon by the hon. member for Lake Centre. It is almost impossible for the committee and the public to get at information—

Mr. RALSTON: Oh, I think it is.

Mr. HAZEN:—as to where a good deal of this money is spent. How many men can be trained at Debert training centre?

Mr. RALSTON: There is accommodation for 13,000, all ranks, and 150 Canadian Women's Army Corps. And there are at present under construction building lines to accommodate two units.

With regard to chapels, I would point out that the matter has had close attention. At present there are twenty-seven religious centres under construction. In all I anticipate there will be constructed something like forty-two across Canada. I should like to place on record the purpose of these chapels, because there was some discussion about them during the victory loan campaign. The statement I have before me is in these words:

The need of these buildings is summed up by the principal chaplains as follows:

"The general consensus of opinion of the principal chaplains and district chaplains in Canada and district officers commanding based upon the experience of the past three and a half years is that a building set apart solely for religious purposes is absolutely necessary in training centres and camps if the moral and religious needs of the men and women of the armed services are to be worthily met and if the chaplains are to carry out effectively their duty towards those for whose spiritual welfare they are responsible."

The general purpose of these buildings is that they be used as a religious centre not just on Sundays but for every day in the week. It will be a place where limited accommodation will be provided so that communion services can be held on Sundays and holy days and to permit of week-day services and special services and classes such as church membership and bible classes. These services and meetings will be simply for those who desire voluntarily to attend and are entirely apart from church parades which will be held as in the past in the open air during the summer and in the local churches during the winter.

The centre will also be a building where officers and men may come as they wish at any time when they are off duty for quiet and meditation. In the centre will be chaplains' rooms where members of the centre may feel free to come and talk with the chaplain on personal matters at any time they desire. In short it represents an exceedingly modest provision whereby there is maintained within the camp and as part of camp life an opportunity for the cultivation of spiritual and moral values along with the physical and intellectual development which is such a large part of camp activities. . . .

This matter has been most carefully considered by the department and by the govern-